

30 Spring Terrace
Greenfield, MA 01301-3017
November 4, 1999

Donna Shalala, Secretary
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20201


Dear Secretary Shalala:

I am writing because I understand you are considering a proposal to change the labeling requirements for irradiated food. I strongly believe that it is my right to know if the food I eat has been treated with radiation.

Food products undergo chemical changes **after** exposure to radioactive isotopes, and these changes warrant disclosure on a prominent place on the package. In addition, food that is not packaged should be accompanied by a poster in plain view of where it is displayed for sale. Consumers have the right to **full** information about the products they buy. Even if studies show radiation to be safe, long term use may reveal previously undisclosed problems, and consumers have the right to use their own judgment.

I hope that you will defend the consumer's right to know in this process.

Sincerely,



Dorothea Sotiros

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